

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

April 15, 2008

Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone  
President  
National Academy of Sciences  
500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Cicerone,

I am writing to request that the National Academy of Sciences explore a National Research Council (NRC) review of safety measures to protect the community surrounding the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The Army finalized its environmental impact study for the expansion of USAMRIID in December 2006. However, as the attached letter from the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners indicates, community concerns continue to exist about health and safety risks, environmental impacts, and the adequacy of the environmental impact study and its risk assessment.

A National Academy of Sciences independent, scientific peer review of risk assessments and preventive measures would assure my constituents of their right to be heard. The attached letter from the Board of County Commissioners proposes a very thoughtful scope of the review.

Please meet with the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners as soon as possible to explore this proposal and the steps needed to initiate an NRC Review. Please contact Jan Gardner, the President of the Board at 301-600-3190 to arrange a meeting. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Frank Cristinzio in my office at 202-224-4654. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

Enclosure